## REMARKS

The specification has been amended to incorporate the sequence identifiers pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(d) and the sequence listing pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(c). The above-made amendments do not introduce new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment be made of record in the file history of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

On page 14, lines 28 and 29, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Fig. 4 shows sequences of the utilized regions i.e. A', B and C: HCV (SEQ ID NO: 6) and Human (SEQ ID NO: 7).

On page 15, lines 4-11, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Fig. 7 shows a particularly suitable region (SEQ ID NO: 8) of the HCV genome for performing the method according to the invention and a sequence from which the primer and probe sequences are preferably selected. This second sequence is taken from the non-human pathogenic virus HGBV-B (SEQ ID NO: 9). The selected primer and probe sequences are therefore sequences that are not specific for HCV (M. Med. Virol. 48, 60-67).

On page 15, lines 12 and 13, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Fig. 8 to 10 show preferred sequences for primers and probes for the HCV test: MPF1 (SEQ ID NO: 10), MPF1+1 (SEQ ID NO: 11), MPF2 (SEQ ID NO: 12), HCV_1A (SEQ ID NO: 13), MPR1_rev&compl (SEQ ID NO: 14), MPR2_rev & compl (SEQ ID NO: 15), HCVMCR02_rev&compl (SEQ ID NO: 16), Foreward primer CK10/Reverse primer CK20 (SEQ ID NOs: 17 and 18), Foreward primer CK11/Reverse primer CK20 (SEQ ID NOs: 19 and 20), Foreward primer CK10-1/Reverse primer CK20-1 (SEQ ID NOs: 21 and 22), Foreward primer CK11-1 (SEQ ID NO: 23), Foreward primer CK 10-2/Reverse primer CK20-2 (SEQ ID NOs: 24 and 25), Foreward primer CK11-2 (SEQ ID NO: 26), Reverse primer CK21 (SEQ ID NO: 27), Foreward primer CK10-1/Reverse Primer CK21-1 (SEQ ID NOs: 28 and 29), Foreward primer CK11-1 (SEQ ID NO: 30), Reverse primer CK21-2 (SEQ ID NO: 31), Reverse primer CK21-3 (SEQ ID NO: 32), Foreward primer CK12/Reverse primer CK22 (SEQ ID NOs: 33

and 34), Foreward primer CK12-1/Reverse primer CK22-1 (SEQ ID NOs: 35 and 36), Reverse primer CK22-2 (SEQ ID NO: 37), Reverse Primer CK22-3 (SEQ ID NO: 38), Foreward primer CK12-2/Reverse primer CK22-4 (SEQ ID NOs: 39 and 40), Reverse primer CK22-5 (SEQ ID NO: 41), Reverse primer CK23 (SEQ ID NO: 42), Reverse primer CK23-1 (SEQ ID NO: 43), Reverse primer CK23-2 (SEQ ID NO: 44), Reverse primer CK23-3 (SEQ ID NO: 45), Reverse primer CK24 (SEQ ID NO: 46), Reverse primer CK24-1 (SEQ ID NO: 47), Reverse primer CK24-2 (SEQ ID NO: 48), Reverse primer CK24-3 (SEQ ID NO: 49), HCV (SEQ ID NO: 93) and HGBV-B (SEQ ID NO: 94).

On page 55, lines 10-13, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Two different ruthenium-labelled probes were used for the hybridization:

PNA-probe: Ru-$(Ser)_2$-TCCAGGACCC-Ser-Gly (SEQ ID NO: 92)

DNA-probe: 5'-Ru-CTCCAGGACCCC-3', (SEQ.ID.NO.5)

On page 63, please amend the table as follows:

| primer | sequence | position | amplicon |
|---|---|---|---|
| SK 462 (SEQ ID NO: 50) | 5′-AGTTGGAGGACATCAAGCAGCCATGCAAAT-3′ | 1359-1388 (30) | |
| SK 431 (SEQ ID NO: 51) (gag) | 5′-TGCTATGTCAGTTCCCCTTGGTTCTCT-3′ | 1474-1500 (27) | 142 bp |
| SK 102 (SEQ ID NO: 52) | 5′-ATCAATGAGGAAGCTGCAGA-3′ | 1402-1421 (20) | |
| RAR 1032 (SEQ ID NO:53) | 5′-GAGACACCAGGAATTAGATATCAGTACAATGT-3′ | 2961-2992 (32) | |
| RAR 1033 (SEQ ID NO: 54) (pol) | 5′-CTAAATCAGATCCTACATATAAGTCATCCATGT-3′ | 3097-3129 (33) | 169 bp |
| RAR 1034 (SEQ ID NO: 55) | 5′-CCACAAGGATGGAAAGGATCACCAGCTATATTCCA-3′ | 2997-3031 (35) | |
| GH A1F (SEQ ID NO: 56) | 5′-TGTACCAGTAAAATTAAAGCCAG | 2570-2592 (23) | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| GH A1R (SEQ ID NO: 57) (pol)<br>GH A1P (SEQ ID NO: 58) | 5′-GGCCATTGTTTAACTTTTGG<br>5′-AGGAATGGATGGC | 2604-2623 (20)<br>2591-2603 (13) | 54 bp |
| GH A2F (SEQ ID NO: 59)<br>GH A2R (SEQ ID NO: 60) (pol)<br>GH A2P (SEQ ID NO: 61) | 5′-TACCTGGCATGGGTACCAGC<br>5′-GACTAATTTATCTACTTGTTCATTTC<br>5′-CACACAAAGGAATTGGAG | 4143-4162 (20)<br>4180-4205 (26)<br>4162-4179 (18) | 63 bp |
| GH A3F (SEQ ID NO: 62)<br>GH A3R (SEQ ID NO: 63) (pol)<br>GH A3P (SEQ ID NO: 64) | 5′-TTTGGAATTCCCTACAATCC<br>5′-AATTCTTTATTCATAGATTCTACTAC<br>5′-CCCAAAGTCAAGGAG | 4644-4663 (20)<br>4677-4702 (26)<br>4663-4677 (15) | 59 bp |
| GH A4F (SEQ ID NO: 65)<br>GH A4R (SEQ ID NO: 66) (pol)<br>GH A4P (SEQ ID NO: 67) | 5′-TCAAAATTTTCGGGTTTATTACAG<br>5′-AGCTTTGCTGGTCCTTTCCA<br>5′-GGACAGCAGAAATCCACTT | 4889-4912 (24)<br>4932-4951 (20)<br>4913-4931 (19) | 63 bp |
| GH A5F (SEQ ID NO: 68)<br>GH A5R (SEQ ID NO: 69) (pol)<br>GH A5P (SEQ ID NO: 70) | 5′-GGAAAAGGTCTATCTGGCATGGGT<br>5′-ACTAATTTATCTACTTGTTCATTTCCTC<br>5′-ACCAGCACACAAAGGAATTG | 4133-4156 (24)<br>4177-4204 (28)<br>4157-4176 (20) | 72 bp |
| GH A6F (SEQ ID NO: 71)<br>GH A6R (SEQ ID NO: 72) (pol)<br>GH A6P (SEQ ID NO: 73) | 5′-GCAACTAGATTGTACACATTTAGAAG<br>5′-CTTCTATATATCCACTGGCTACATG<br>5′-GAAAAGTTATCCTGGTAGCAGTT | 4412-4437 (26)<br>4461-4485 (25)<br>4438-4460 (23) | 74 bp |

On page 65, please amend the table as follows :

| | primer/probe | sequence | position | amplicon length |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ref | HBV-Forward (SEQ ID NO: 74) | 5′-GGAGTGTGGATTCGCACT-3′ | 2267-2284 (18) | 170 bp |
| | HBV-Reverse (SEQ ID NO: 75) | 5′-TGAGATCTTCTGCGACGC-3′ | 2419-2436 (18) | |
| | capture probe (SEQ ID NO: 76) | 5′-AGACCACCAAATGCCCCTAT-3′ | 2297-2316 (20) | |
| 1 | GHBV-1F (SEQ ID NO: 77) | 5′-CCACCAAATGCCCCTAT-3′ | 2300-2316 (17) | 58 bp |
| | GHBV-1R (SEQ ID NO: 78) | 5′-CCCGTCGTCTAACAACAG-3′ | 2340-2357 (18) | |
| | capture probe 1P (SEQ ID NO: 79) | 5′-CTTATCAACACTTCCGGAAACTA-3′ | 2317-2339 (23) | |
| 2 | GHBV-2F (SEQ ID NO: 80) | 5′-GCGGGGTTTTTCTTGTT-3′ | 203-219 (17) | 50 bp |
| | GHBV-2R (SEQ ID NO: 81) | 5′-TCTAGACTCTGCGGTATTGTG-3′ | 232-252 (21) | |
| | capture probe 2P (SEQ ID NO: 82) | 5′-TTGACAAGAATCCTCA-3′ | 218-233 (16) | |
| 3 | GHBV-3F (SEQ ID NO: 83) | 5′-GATCCCCAACCTCCAATC-3′ | 315-332 (18) | 61 bp |
| | GHBV-3R (SEQ ID NO: 84) | 5′-CAGCGATAACCAGGACAAAT-3′ | 356-375 (20) | |
| | capture probe 3P (SEQ ID NO: 85) | 5′-ACTCACCAACCTCCTGTCCTCCA-3′ | 333-355 (23) | |
| 4 | GHBV-4F (SEQ ID NO: 86) | 5′-ACTTCTTTCCTTCCGTCAGA-3′ | 1965-1984 (20) | 61 bp |
| | GHBV-4R (SEQ ID NO: 87) | 5′-AAGGCTTCCCGATACAGAG-3′ | 2007-2015 (19) | |
| | capture probe 4P (SEQ ID NO: 88) | 5′-GATCTCCTAGACACCGCCTCGG-3′ | 1985-2006 (22) | |
| 5 | GHBV-5F (SEQ ID NO: 89) | 5′-CAGCCAACCAGGTAGGAGTG-3′ | 3014-3033 (20) | 55 bp |
| | GHBV-5R (SEQ ID NO: 90) | 5′-CCGTGTGGAGGGGTGAAC-3′ | 3051-3068 (18) | |
| | capture probe 5P (SEQ ID NO: 91) | 5′-GGAGCATTCGGGCCAGG-3′ | 3034-3050 (17) | |